

March 16, 2017

Re: Docket No. RM-2017-3, Ten Year Rate System Review Comments

Dear Commissioners:

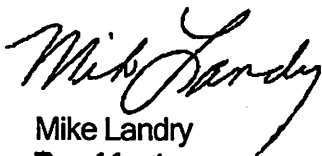
I am writing on behalf of the Central New York Area Local 257 to submit comments for the Ten Year Rate System Review. The workers represented throughout our area in Central New York are not only on the front line of mail processing and retail services, but also community members, mailers, working and living in upstate New York. We have a unique perspective of understanding the financial challenges the United States Postal Service faces and its obligation to ensure universal service especially in remote areas.

The current CPI rate cap has substantially hurt the financial condition of the Postal Service which has led to a reduction in the quality of service it provides to the public including the costs from consolidations, closures and service standard degradations. These financial restrictions have affected prompt and efficient services to the public and as mail volumes continue to decline, the price cap endangers the Postal Service's financial viability.

I use the Postal Service and value its existence and believe it can thrive well into the future as it has in the past. We must remember that the Postal Service was changed in 1970's from the Post Office Department to the Postal Service to operate more like a business and to compete like one. The PRC should eliminate the price cap to ensure that the USPS is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable public institution that provides prompt and affordable service to all. No other business could thrive or continue to operate with the same price restrictions the Postal Service is held accountable to.

The USPS must have sufficient financial stability to ensure that it can operate in a manner that provides quality service to everyone, regardless of geographical area. Without a flexible system that allows the Postal Service to respond to demand, the economy, and costs, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Landry", written in a cursive style.

Mike Landry
President

Central New York Area Local 257